

Board of Chiropractic Examiners

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Treatment of Animals By Licensed Chiropractors

In response to inquiries received by the Board regarding the treatment of animals by licensed chiropractors, the following will serve to explain the law in California and a chiropractor's possible role in the treating of animals:

Title 16, Division 4, Section 302 of the California Code of Regulation states that a duly licensed chiropractor may manipulate and adjust the spinal column and other joints of the *human body*. Thus, the chiropractor, acting in his or her licensed capacity, may only treat humans.

In addition, Section 7 of the Chiropractic Initiative Act provides that the license to practice chiropractic in California authorizes one to practice chiropractic as taught in chiropractic schools or colleges. However, a chiropractor acting as an unlicensed veterinary assistant may manipulate and/or adjust animals provided that he or she has the requisite knowledge of the anatomy of the animal patient and is working under the direct supervision of the licensed doctor of veterinary medicine.